

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Executive Board Meeting

September 17, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Sara Jordan. Board members present were Sara Jordan, Michele Wasson, Carol Mendel, Andy Kessel, Arlene Sevilla-White, Susan Rose, Denise Devlin, Ann Griffin, Derek Reed, and Deeana Montgomery.

Sara expressed thanks to Arlene for her service to the organization as she plans to move out of state, and she presented a gift from the board.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous PCMG meetings in June 2024 were presented by Secretary Deeana Montgomery. There were no corrections, and Ann moved to accept the minutes. Michele seconded the motion, and the motion carried by vote of the board.

Treasurer's Report: Data since the previous board meeting of June 2024 was presented by Treasurer Andy Kessel. Included in the report is the data that the biggest expense has been in setting up the new website. Other needs are greenhouse repairs and new class training costs. Carol moved that we accept the report, and Ann seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board.

Assistant Treasurer's Report: The report was presented by Assistant Treasurer Arlene Sevilla-White. There are 33 PCMG members who have not paid current dues. Next week these members will receive letters that they are dropped from membership.

At this point Andy led discussion of costs for the new printed directory. Five hundred copies will be printed. Carol moved that we print the directories after January 2025 and include new class members. Copies will be dispersed to the project chairs for distribution at no charge. Ann seconded the motion, and the motion carries by vote of the board members.

Reports:

Projects: Pam Abrams was absent, but Derek offered information regarding the new class. The letters are being sent today. He will prepare the list for board members as they will mentor their assigned candidates until the end of training when there will be project assignments. UAMS has been allowed to submit 5 candidates for the training program.

Standing Committees: There was discussion of free classes offered to members and the public. A detailed written report of committee progress was presented by Michele Wasson, Second VP. Michele and the board will host a Brunch for committee chairs to show support and foster communication. Her report includes plans and changes in the committees. She outlined upcoming Continuing Education events for members and reported on a series of gardening classes to be offered at the state office to PCMG and the public. Linda Melberg is the new chair of the Event Committee. The new chair of the Facebook/photography Committee is Charlotte Perdue. The Newsletter Committee is requesting additional members. The Program Committee requests suggestions for future programs. The Record keeping Committee has sent reports to all chairs regarding reported hours. Reporting Manager,

Harold Abbey, will be instructing members in the lobby following the meeting about the process of recording hours. He also has available a paper form for reporting hours that will be collected in October and November for Harold to enter hours for the member. The Training/mentoring Committee is prepared for the new fall class training sessions beginning October 23, 2024. The Travel Committee is planning 2025 trips. Website/directory Committee is recommending printing the paper directory after the beginning of the new year. Michele is working on job descriptions for all committees.

Pest: Carol reported that she is possibly scheduling project visits for October 8, 2024.

At Large: Denise Devlin reported that the volunteer St. James United Methodist Church workday is scheduled for October 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Derek voiced concern that he is often asked for Master Gardener member participation in a community event and that few people are volunteering.

Susan Rose reported on Programs and requested ideas.

Derek and Sara voiced concerns over state reporting of work hours and the lack of data for the board and chairs during the calendar year to keep track of reporting by members throughout the year. PCMG would benefit from periodic reports. Requests for additional information was submitted to the State.

Ann Griffin reported that the Training Committee is ready for the new member training sessions.

Unfinished Business: Derek furnished the board with printed copies of the revised Volunteer Manual with highlighted changes; the board had previously been sent by email the newest version with changes highlighted in yellow for the board's consideration. The board is asked to review the manual and to make suggestions and corrections so that the new manual can be finalized as soon as possible. It will be put online, and a paper copy furnished to the new class.

New Business: A gift for Paul Nolte for his service to PCMG and the website and recording system was discussed, but final plans were delayed.

Derek presented change of status requests. Leave of Absence requests were received for Rita Borecky, Levinia Bell, and Theresa Funkhouser (Lifetime). Ann moved to grant all three requests, and Michele seconded. The motion passed by board vote.

Laura Anne Warren and Rachel Kelly plan a presentation to the membership at today's general meeting regarding the STUFF plan for obtaining PCMG logo garments from Trivia Marketing. Laura Anne explained the final process to the board and displayed samples.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary